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Publishers Weekly

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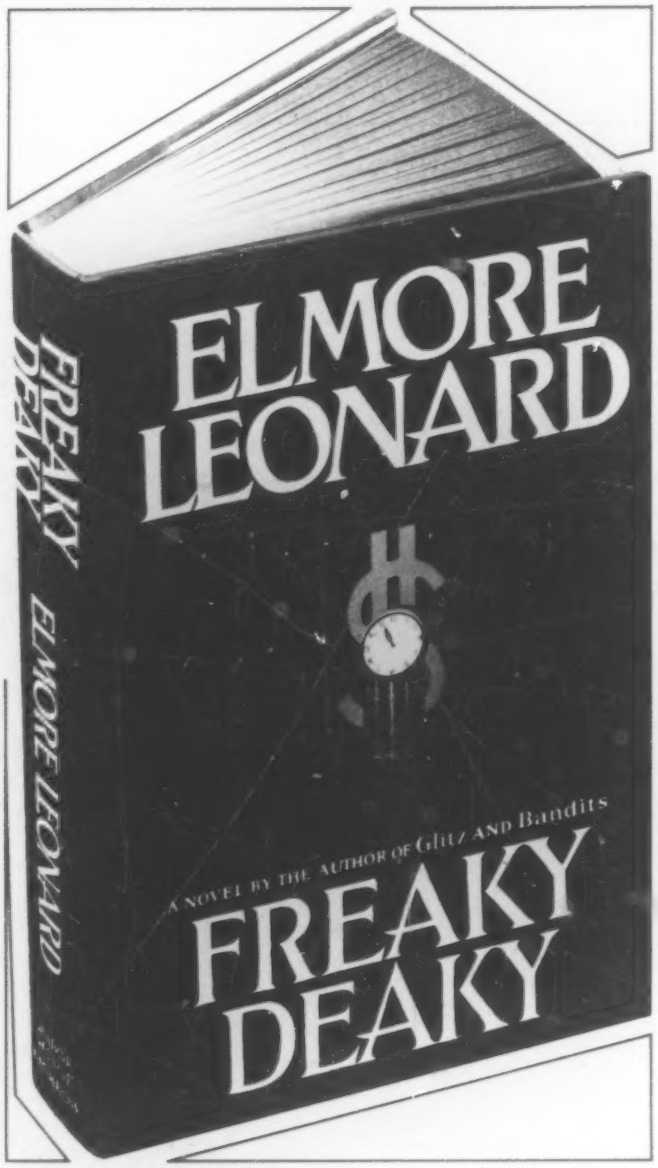
Elmore Leonard. Freaky Deaky.

Spring 1988
Arbor House/William Morrow

Elmore Leonard as photographed by Annie Leibovitz for the American Express® Card.

"Chris Mankowski's last day on the job, two in the afternoon, two hours to go, he got a call to dispose of a bomb."



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EDITED BY MADALYNNE REUTER

Times Mirror to Buy Irwin For $135 Million

Times Mirror has agreed to purchase Richard D. Irwin Inc., the college textbook publisher, from Dow Jones for $135 million.

Robert F. Erburu, chairman and chief executive of Times Mirror, said that an important strategic priority for the company was building a significant position in college publishing to supplement strengths in professional publishing.

In its professional publishing division Times Mirror subsidiaries include C. V. Mosby, which publishes college texts, reference books, professional journals and health-related books for the general market, and Matthew Bender, which publishes in the legal, accounting, insurance and banking fields. Times Mirror also owns Year Book Medical Publishers, whose subsidiaries include CRC Press and Wolfe Medical Publishers Ltd., and Harry N. Abrams, art book publishers.

Richard D. Irwin, which had sales in 1987 of about $62 million, has 390 employees and publishes college textbooks under three imprints: Irwin, Business Publications and Dorsey Press. A fourth imprint, Dow Jones-Irwin, publishes books for the business and financial markets. Times Mirror has the right to use the Dow Jones-Irwin name for three years.

Dow Jones acquired Irwin in 1975. Warren H. Phillips, chairman, and Ray Shaw, president, said the sale reflects Dow Jones's decision to focus on its core electronic and print financial information businesses.

The two executives also said that the sale "was predicated on our ability to select a buyer who would continue to operate the Irwin company as a separate business; who would respect its traditions; who would assure fair treatment of Irwin employees and provide for personnel policies and programs that are substantially similar; and who would maintain Irwin's valued author and customer relationships. We are satisfied that each of these goals has been realized. Times Mirror was our first choice."

Times Mirror announced that its professional publishing group accounted for $389.1 million, or about 13%, of its $2.95 billion revenue in 1986. In the first nine months of 1987, professional publishing accounted for $323.5 million, or about 14% of $2.29 billion revenue.

AAP Sales Report for October

Category	% change, October	% change, YTD
Adult hardcover	15.3	14.7
Adult paperback	0.9	12.3
Juvenile hardcover	16.1	22.4
Juvenile paperback	-2.1	19.5
Univ. Pr. hardcover	7.5	7.2
Univ. Pr. paperback	13.1	10.7
Bibles, etc.	39.3	20.6
Mass market paperback	15.7	13.7
Book club	0.7	11.7
Mail order	9.0	4.0
Sci-tech	13.2	4.4
College texts	- 10.1	3.1
School texts	- 10.1	3.2

LDRC: Libel Rulings Favor Media

Most media defendants in libel suits probably can expect a favorable ruling, according to a recent study by the Libel Defense Resource Center.

The report found that more than three out of four media libel cases were summarily dismissed without full trial. The study reviews 143 motions for summary judgment made by media libel defendants from 1984 to 1986 and reveals that the defendants' motion to dismiss prevailed in 76% of the 143 cases studied. This is a slight increase over the 74% success rate documented in LDRC's previous four-year study.

In cases that go to trial, the success rate for defendants was 80% and in cases that are appealed (by plaintiffs or defendants), the success rate for defendants is up from 66% to 74%.

The findings closely parallel the defendant success rates in LDRC's two earlier studies of libel judgments, which examined 389 motions made between 1980 and 1984.

Maxwell to Expand French TV Holdings

Global publisher Robert Maxwell, who has favored books in most of his celebrated acquisitions or near acquisitions, is expanding aggressively into the French communications market, particularly television, and intends to build a multimedia empire, according to the French daily *Le Monde*.

Maxwell is a major investor in France's Channel One, the country's leading (and now private) television station. His French holding company, Maxwell Media, recently joined forces with a TV production company called TCT Actualités Télévisées.

Meanwhile, Agence Centrale de Presse, acquired when it was deep in hock, has reduced its monthly losses by half. Run by Maxwell's younger son Ian, the rejuvenated news and feature service recently began taking over other feature and photographic agencies. The newest acquisition is Opera Mundi, the pioneer feature agency and syndicate that has been distributing popular American comic strips to France and neighboring countries since the 1930s. —H.R.L.

T & T Buys Title Research Unit Of D.C. Firm

The law firms of Thomson & Thomson and Brylawski, Clearly & Leeds, which have provided publishers with copyright and trademark services since the early 1900s, have agreed to the acquisition, by T & T, of BCL's copyright and title research operations. The acquisition is expected to be completed early this year.

E. Fulton Brylawski and J. Michael Clearly, principals at BCL, said in a prepared statement, "This sale will allow us to focus on the practice of copyright, trademark and other aspects of intellectual property law."

"We are assured," the statement continues, "that our clients will continue to receive the best copyright and title research available and will benefit from Thomson & Thomson's ability to develop the databases and extend the range of services."

The Washington, D.C.–based BCL has provided copyright and title research to firms in the publishing and entertainment industries since 1909. Thomson & Thomson, founded in 1913 in North Quincy, Mass., provides trademark, company name and logo research.